

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4032

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 1203

FROM JACOBSEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PAO LOURENCO MARQUES

1. AGENCY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER FOLLOWING POINTS IN DECIDING
ON POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT FOR PAO, WHO DEPARTED LOURENCO MARQUES
ON TRANSFER TO JOHANNESBURG NOV 10:

A) CONSTRAINTS - MOZAMBIQUE IS UNLIKELY TO BE FERTILE GROUND
FOR TYPICAL USIS ACTIVITIES IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. RESTRICTIONS
ON DIPLOMATS, THEIR TRAVEL AND CONTACTS, CAN BE EXPECTED. THE
GPRM WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF ANY AMERICANS ASSIGNED
HERE. THE AGENCY MUST DECIDE IF IT IS WORTHWHILE TO HAVE A
PAO ASSIGNED WHO IS, AS I HAVE BEEN MUCH OF THE TIME, A SUR-
ROGATE POLITICAL OFFICER.

B) EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE - ALL ATTEMPTS SO FAR TO INTEREST
MOZAMBICANS IN PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN REBUFFED. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN
IN HOLDING PATTERN SINCE INDEPENDENCE, THIS SITUATION IS NOT
LIKELY TO CHANGE. EVEN PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ACCEPT OFFICIAL
INVITATION TO VISIT U.S. PROBABLY WILL BE AFRAID TO DO SO IF
THE U.S. CONTINUES TO BE DEPICTED AS "THE ENEMY".

C) USIS INFRASTRUCTURE - A VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN
PURCHASED. WE HAVE BEEFED UP THE FILM LIBRARY, INSTALLED WIRE-
LESS FILE EQUIPMENT, AND HVE TWO EXCELLENT LOCAL EMPLOYEES
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TO KEEP THINGS GOING. BUT AS THEY ARE RELATIVELY NEW, THEY

SHOULD RECEIVE DIRECTION. BEFORE JUNE 25 WE SUSPEMDED DISTRIBUTION ACTIVITIES, FILMS WERE POPULAR WITH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. NOW THAT THE EMBASSY IS OPEN, IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER THEY ARE STILL PERMITTED TO BE SHOWN IN THE AZNEW MOZAMBIQUE".

D) PAO RESIDENCE - RESIDENCE REPRESENTS ONGOING MONTHLY EXPENSE OF \$600.00 RENT PLUS APPROXIMATELY \$150.00 IN UTILITIES, GARDENER, ETC. IF HIATUS BETWEEN MY DEPARTURE AND SUCCESSOR'S ARRIVAL IS CONSIDERABLE, AGENCY MAY CONSIDER OFFERING LEASE TO STATE OR INVOKING DIPLOMATIC CLAUSE AND GIVING UP HOUSE. (FYI: RESIDENCE IS ONE OF MOST SOUGHT-AFTER BY NEWLY-ARRIVED DIPLOMATS IN L.M. LANDLORD HAS HAD SEVERAL OFFERS TO BUYHIT.)

E) CONDITIONS - QUALITY OF LIFE IN L.M. IS DETERIORATING STEADILY. MEDICAL ATTENTION IS VIRTUALLY UNAVAILABLE. RESIDENTS HEAD FOR SOUTH AFRICA OR SWAZILAND IF THEY NEED A DOCTOR OR DENTIST. FOOD SHORTAGES -- MEAT, MILK, RICE -- ARE INCREASINGLY COMMON. THE FUTURE OF THE ENGLISH PRIMARY SCHOOL, WHICH HERETOFORE OFFERED AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD OF EDUCATION UP TO THE SEVENTH YEAR, IS CLOUDY AT BEST NOW THAT IT HAS BEEN "NATIONALIZED". THE FEW QUALIFIED TEACHERS AVAILABLE ARE JOINING THE CONTINUING EXODUS FROM THE COUNTRY. WE WOULD ADVISE AGAINST AN ASSIGNEE BRINGING YOUNGER, SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN TO THIS POST.

2. CHARGE CONCURS WITH SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE REMARKS BQT RECOMMENDS THAT DECISION ON WHEN, OR IF, TO SEND IN NEW PAO BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER AMBASSADOR ARRIVES AND HAS OPPORTUNITY TAKE A HARD LOOK AT SITUATION.
ARENALES

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